

From: melissa@dagobachocolate.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 10:26 PM
To: NOP Livestock
Subject: Support minimum 120 days grazing/30% grass feed for organic cattle

Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

To whom it may concern,

I support the NOSB proposal that organic dairy cows spend at least 120 days each year on grass and that at least 30 percent of the cows' feed must come from pasture during the grazing season.

This should be considered a minimum standard with no exceptions. Indeed, I feel strongly that this standard should be revised to include annual increases in the time spent on grass, and the percentage of feed derived from pasture.

The company I work for sources increasing amounts of organic milk, and supports producers following the highest standards. As a consumer, I follow the same principles, purchasing only dairy products from local dairies that use milk from fully free range, grass fed cows.

The integrity of organic entails no less than humane treatment of livestock with natural feeding and activity cycles and fresh, organic feed provided by nature without processing or additives. The integrity of organic will be maintained only through meaningful and enforced standards that go well beyond the status quo, and that require companies to make a comprehensive long-term commitment to higher standards instead of bending the rules or lowering the bar to build the market for the sake of profits. Such standards also ensure the highest quality products, offering a double edged marketing power and consumer appeal.

If this is not maintained, what will organic be but an empty, meaningless label on a higher priced but no more healthful or ethically produced product? What then can our children and future generations expect to ensure their health and the health of our cherished but ever more threatened planet?

Thank you for taking this request into account.

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